

WHAT IS CLAIMED:

1. A lancet device, comprising:
a housing;
a cap for covering the housing and for positioning the lancet device relative to a skin
5 surface;
a needle holding member for holding a lancet, the needle holding member being at
least partially contained within the housing;
a biasing element for biasing the needle holding member toward an extended
position;
10 a trigger for releasing the needle holding member from a retracted position; and
a travel adjustment mechanism capable of adjusting a length of travel of said needle
holding member, said travel adjustment mechanism being positioned within at least one of
said housing and said cap during at least a portion of the length of travel of said needle
holding member.
2. The lancet device of claim 1, wherein the needle holding member comprises
15 a first component and a second component, and wherein the travel adjustment mechanism
comprises a threaded connection between the first component and the second component.
3. The lancet device of claim 2, wherein the travel adjustment mechanism
further comprises a protruding element on one of the first component and the second
20 component, and grooves on the other of the first component and the second component, the
protruding element being capable of engaging the grooves.
4. The lancet device of claim 3, wherein the protruding element comprises a
nipple.

5. The lancet device of claim 3, wherein the protruding element comprises a spring-biased ball.

6. The lancet device of claim 1, wherein the needle holding member comprises a first component and a second component, and wherein the travel adjustment mechanism comprises a spring-biased element on one of the first component and the second component, and a plurality of recesses in the other of the first component and the second component, the spring-biased element being capable of engaging the recesses.

7. The lancet device of claim 1, wherein the needle holding member comprises a first component and a second component, and wherein the travel adjustment mechanism comprises grooves in one of the first component and the second component, and a ridge on the other of the first component and the second component, the ridge being capable of engaging the grooves.

8. The lancet device of claim 1, wherein the needle holding member comprises a first component and a second component, and wherein the travel adjustment mechanism comprises grooves in one of the first component and the second component, and at least one leaf spring on the other of the first component and the second component, the at least one leaf spring being capable of engaging the grooves.

9. The lancet device of claim 1, wherein the housing comprises a plurality of stops, and wherein the needle holding member comprises a protrusion for engaging the stops one at a time.

10. The lancet device of claim 9, wherein the needle holding member and the housing are capable of rotating relative to each other.

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11. The lancet device of claim 1, wherein the travel adjustment mechanism is positioned within said housing and said cap during the length of travel of said needle holding member.

12. A lancet device, comprising:

a housing;

a cap for covering the housing and for positioning the lancet device relative to a skin surface;

a needle holding member for holding a lancet, the needle holding member being at least partially contained within the housing, a length of the needle holding member being adjustable;

a biasing element for biasing the needle holding member toward an extended position; and

a trigger for releasing the needle holding member from a retracted position.

13. The lancet device of claim 12, wherein the needle holding member comprises a first component and a second component, and a threaded connection between the first component and the second component.

14. The lancet device of claim 13, wherein the needle holding member comprises a protruding element on one of the first component and the second component, and grooves on the other of the first component and the second component, the protruding element being capable of engaging the grooves.

15. The lancet device of claim 14, wherein the protruding element comprises a nipple.

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16. The lancet device of claim 14, wherein the protruding element comprises a spring-biased ball.

17. The lancet device of claim 12, wherein the needle holding member comprises a first component and a second component, and wherein the needle holding member comprises a spring-biased element on one of the first component and the second component, and a plurality of recesses in the other of the first component and the second component, the spring-biased element being capable of engaging the recesses.

18. The lancet device of claim 12, wherein the needle holding member comprises a first component and a second component, and wherein the needle holding member comprises grooves in one of the first component and the second component, and a ridge on the other of the first component and the second component, the ridge being capable of engaging the grooves.

19. The lancet device of claim 12, wherein the needle holding member comprises a first component and a second component, and wherein the needle holding member comprises grooves in one of the first component and the second component, and at least one leaf spring on the other of the first component and the second component, the at least one leaf spring being capable of engaging the grooves.

20. A lancet device, comprising:

a housing containing at least one stop;

a cap for covering the housing and for positioning the lancet device relative to a skin surface;

a needle holding member for holding a lancet, the needle holding member being at least partially contained within the housing, the needle holding member having at least one protrusion for striking the at least one stop of the housing;

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a biasing element for biasing the needle holding member toward an extended position;

a trigger for releasing the needle holding member from a retracted position; and

an alignment mechanism capable of aligning the at least one stop of the housing and
5 the at least one protrusion of the needle holding member to adjust the extended position of the needle holding member.

21. The lancet device of claim 20, wherein the housing comprises an upper housing and a lower housing, and wherein the alignment mechanism comprises a threaded connection between the upper housing and the lower housing.

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10 22. The lancet device of claim 21, wherein the at least one stop comprises a guide collar on the lower housing.

23. The lancet device of claim 20, wherein the housing comprises an upper housing and a lower housing, and wherein the alignment mechanism comprises a spring between the upper housing and the lower housing to bias the lower housing into the upper housing, and wherein the alignment mechanism comprises a spacer between the upper
15 housing and the lower housing to act against a biasing force of the spring.

24. The lancet device of claim 23, wherein the at least one stop comprises a guide collar on the lower housing.

20 25. The lancet device of claim 20, wherein the housing comprises an upper housing and a lower housing, the lower housing having the at least one stop which comprises a plurality of stops, and wherein the alignment mechanism comprises a threaded connection between the upper housing and the lower housing.

26. The lancet device of claim 25, wherein the plurality of stops comprise stops at different radial and axial positions on an interior of the lower housing.

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5 27. The lancet device of claim 20, wherein the at least one stop comprises a plurality of stops, and wherein the alignment mechanism comprises a rotary connection between the housing and the needle holding member.

28. The lancet device of claim 27, wherein the plurality of stops comprise stops at different radial and axial positions on an interior of the housing.

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10 29. A lancet device, comprising:
a housing;
a cap for covering the housing and for positioning the lancet device relative to a skin surface;
a needle holding member comprising a cavity having a depth for holding a lancet, the needle holding member being at least partially contained within the housing;
15 a biasing element for biasing the needle holding member toward an extended position;
a trigger for releasing the needle holding member from a retracted position; and
an adjustable member disposed within the cavity of the needle holding member for adjusting the cavity depth of the needle holding member.

20 30. The lancet device of claim 29, wherein the adjustable member comprises a screw.

31. The lancet device of claim 29, wherein the needle holding member comprises a turn-key having a pinion, and wherein the adjustable member comprises a nail having a tail which has a rack for engaging the pinion.

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32. A lancet device, comprising:

a housing;

a cap for covering the housing and for positioning the lancet device relative to a skin surface;

5 a needle holding member for holding a lancet, the needle holding member being at least partially contained within the housing;

a biasing element for biasing the needle holding member toward an extended position;

a trigger for releasing the needle holding member from a retracted position; and

10 means for adjusting a penetration depth of a lancet by adjusting a travel distance of the needle holding member, the means for adjusting the penetration depth being capable of being contained within the housing and the cap.

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